

ST. MALO'S QUEST



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*ST. MALO'S QUEST*

*AND OTHER POEMS*



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# ST. MALO'S QUEST

AND OTHER POEMS

BY

JOHN ADAMS, M.A.

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Note to "Prince Charles Edward after the Battle of Culloden,"

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This Poem obtained the Newdigate Prize for English Verse at the University of Oxford in the year 1847.

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# ST. MALO'S QUEST

AND OTHER POEMS.

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## ST. MALO'S QUEST.

### I.

THE shadow of a sudden grief has fallen  
On Aleth ; every heart is bleeding sore,  
And every eye is downcast. Children's mirth  
Is hushed throughout the town, and not a sound  
Ruffles the evening stillness, save the scream  
Of some lone sea-bird, or the sobbing voice  
Of surges, dying on the rocky shore.  
For yonder ship, beneath the sheltering cliff,

Awaits the saint of Aleth, brave St. Malo,  
Whose heart is yearning for the blessèd isles  
Which lie beyond the sunset, and who sails  
In quest of them to-night.

Seven years of apostolic zeal have failed  
To build up Paradise in Aleth. Still,  
Though heathen rites have ceased, its heathen heart  
Remains ; and multitudes, who long have worn  
The livery of Christ, and loved St. Malo,  
Groan in the slavery of lust and wrong.  
Doubting has dimmed the light of simple faith,  
And holy mysteries are rent and torn  
By hands profane, who vainly would define  
Their hidden grace, and grasp the invisible ;  
Just as a wanton child would pluck the leaves  
Of some bright flower, in foolish hope to find  
The secret of its bloom. Impatience too,  
And pride, and stubbornness, are breeding strife  
Before the very altar of the Lord ;  
Supplanting zeal with coldness, dragging down

The Church to the base level of the world,  
And kindling laughter on the scoffer's face.  
What wonder then that Malo's soul is sick  
Of home, and thirsting for that unknown land,  
Which, like the shore of heaven, is free from strife !  
What though no chart nor pilot can be found  
To guide him to that coast ! Has he not heard  
From many a holy sage, that when the sun  
Sinks down in floods of gold and purple light,  
Visions of glowing islands have been seen ?  
And has not many a pilgrim of the sea  
Caught glimpses of their shores, and heard sweet bells  
Chiming for evensong, and hymns of praise  
Floating upon the breeze, like strains of heaven ?  
Does not the heart, too, by its yearning, witness  
That better, purer, brighter realms exist,  
Than scenes of sin and sorrow, as the magnet  
Proclaims the presence of the power it loves ?  
Therefore no chiding voice is heard, no hand  
Would dare to stay his footsteps, as the saint,  
Leading his crew of chosen mariners,

Wends slowly o'er the sand.—

Behind them flows

A weeping multitude, to whom his words  
Have opened hopes of peace and rest in heaven ;  
And kneeling on the sand in tender grief,  
They crave once more his blessing, and remain  
Watching the vessel till it fades away  
In the bright pathway of the setting sun.

## II.

Seven days and nights the pilgrim ship swept on  
Before a westward breeze ; seven times the sun  
Rose cloudless from the sea, and set in glory.  
Old Ocean's voice grew gentle as a song  
That lulls the cradled infant, and the stars  
With such unwonted lustre gemmed the night,  
That Malo watched the sky with breathless awe,  
Listening for angels, and imagining  
That he was nearing heaven's vestibule.



But nothing saw they till the seventh eve,  
When, lo ! against the sun's half-buried disk,  
The summit of a purple island rose,  
And stood in shadowy outline, till the last  
Bright rosy gleam of heavenly light had sunk  
Behind it. Then the pilgrims sang with joy  
Their hymns of praise, and laid them down to rest,  
Dreaming that morning light would lead them on  
To some bright haven of the blessed land.

Alas ! when daylight dawned, that twilight isle  
Had lost its robes of glory, and become  
A pile of frowning, rugged, barren rocks,  
Peopled with vultures, lashed by angry waves,  
And haunted by a melancholy wail.  
But on the highest peak a Cross was reared,  
And at its foot, with hands uplifted, knelt  
A hoary anchorite in earnest prayer.

The sails were slackened, and the vessel swung  
Into a sheltered nook, where lay secure

The hermit's coracle, and whence a path  
Led up the winding ledges to his cell.  
There, seated on the lichen-covered rocks  
That half concealed the door, the pilgrims learnt  
How on that lonely spot the holy man,  
Free from the world's polluted atmosphere,  
Had hoped by easy steps to climb to heaven ;  
Yet how, in spite of sheltering solitude,  
And freedom from the snares of evil men,  
And fasts, and midnight vigils, mocking fiends  
Still dogged his footsteps and defiled his soul.  
Once in a tempest, when the solid rocks  
Were trembling at the strife of wind and wave,  
The powers of hell, he said, so madly rose  
Against him, buffeting his awe-struck spirit  
With base, distrusting thoughts of Christ his Lord--  
Staining his inner vision with a flood  
Of unclean images, and howling forth,  
With the storm-voices, hideous blasphemies--  
That from his cell he fled at dead of night  
To seek the shelter of the Cross, and there,

Clasping its foot till morn, he prostrate lay,  
Crying for mercy to the Crucified ;  
And whilst he prayed, there fell a sudden lull,  
As though the voice which soothed the waves of old,  
Had once more hushed them, saying, ' Peace, be  
still !'

Then on his sinking spirit dawned a light  
Ineffable, unearthly, which disclosed  
A country of surpassing loveliness ;  
And from its shores he heard an angel cry,  
' Fight the good fight of faith, O weary soul !  
And hither in life's evening thou shalt come,  
To reap the harvest of thy toil, and dwell,  
Free from all sorrows, in the land of rest !'

' Thither our course is bound,' St. Malo said,  
' And thou art bidden with us ; sail we then  
Together when the sunset spans the sea !'

## III.

That evening, when the vessel left the bay,  
Shouts as of demons burst from crag and cave,  
Mocking, so thought the mariners, their faith ;  
And scornful laughter mingled with the roar  
Of waves that dashed upon the rocky isle.  
Far in the west a wall of purple clouds  
Eclipsed the sunset, and along the marge  
Of ocean rolled an angry noise of strife,  
As though the unseen hosts that throng the air  
Were marshalling for battle on the sea.  
Anon fleet heralds of a coming storm  
Swept o'er the scowling deep, flecking the waves  
With crests of foam, and raining floods of spray  
On the lone pilgrims and their shuddering bark.  
But onwards with undaunted hearts they sailed,  
Heedless of danger, for their steadfast trust  
In God's unfailing love and sheltering care  
Vanquished misgiving thoughts, and gave them peace.

‘This troubled sea,’ St. Malo said, ‘awakes  
The memory of my earliest confidence  
In Him who rules the waves. One summer eve,  
In days of wayward youth, weary of sport,  
I wandered from my comrades to the sand  
That skirts on Cambria’s coast the Severn sea,  
And there, upon a heap of tangled weed  
Cast from the ocean-depths, I laid me down  
To watch the stately sea-birds on the wing,  
And listen to the music of the waves.  
Then slumber seized me, and old Ocean’s tongue  
Became articulate in songs of praise ;  
While angel-hosts shone forth on sea and sky,  
Encircling me with loving guardianship,  
E’en as of old on Dothan’s leagured hill  
Chariots of fire flashed round the man of God.  
At midnight, when I woke, behold the bed  
On which I lay, snatched by the treacherous tide,  
Was floating on the sea ; and all around  
Thick darkness lay, and dashing billows roared ;  
But unseen hands upheld me, and I felt

A guardian presence bidding me be still,  
And rest in God by ceaseless faith and prayer.

‘When morning dawned, lo ! near at hand arose  
The shore from whence I strayed, and on the sand  
My loving master, holy Brendan, stood  
Awaiting me, admonished in a dream  
That God had rescued and would land me there.  
Then fear not, brothers, tho’ the sky grow black  
With rising tempests, for the selfsame arm  
That saved the child will not forsake the man.  
This trembling vessel is our destined ark ;  
Christ is our pilot, storms His ministers ;  
And whilst we cling to Him in steadfast faith,  
Our course is certain to the land of rest !’

Darker and fiercer grew the hurricane,  
And, clinging to the masts, the pilgrims flew  
Helpless before its fury, wreathed in foam.  
Rocks bristled round them, monsters of the deep  
Uprose to crush them, hissing fiends bestrode

Their shattered sails, and birds of evil note  
Croaked overhead their prophecies of woe ;  
But nought could quench their hope, or stay their  
course.

Three weary nights they counted ere the storm  
Began to flag, and then their eyes grew bright  
At sight of land ; then sunbeams struggled down  
To clothe with smiles of welcome mountain-slopes  
And palmy groves, which shone like Paradise,  
As joyfully they neared an unknown shore.

## IV.

A channel lay betwixt two granite cliffs,  
Which rose like giant castles from the sea,  
And widening inland formed a tranquil mere,  
Girdled with hills and fringed with mighty trees.  
Thither the pilgrims sped and moored their ship,  
Dreaming that scenes so calm and bright might be  
The threshold of a sinless Paradise.

At eventide they sought to climb a gorge  
Bristling with rocks, when, lo ! from beetling heights  
A cloud of arrows hurtled through the air,  
And fiendish laughter pealed from crag and cave.  
Back to the shelter of their bark they fled,  
Dismayed, and hotly chased by savages.  
But ere their sails were spread in flight, a dart  
Had laid the hermit prostrate on the deck.

That night they braved again the open sea,  
Drifting with heedless helm before the wind.  
No converse held they, but in silent gloom,  
Like migrant swallows scattered on the deep,  
They communed with their yearning hearts and God  
For light and comfort, while the dews of death  
Mirrored the starlight on the hermit's brow.

At midnight thus the dying brother spake :  
'The mists of sin which hide the world unseen  
Are rolling from my vision, and a light  
Celestial is breaking on my soul.  
I see, but not with carnal eyes, the isles



For which our hearts have thirsted long and sore,  
And all the bliss ineffable of heaven.  
I hear, but not with organs of the flesh,  
Angelic greetings, and the songs of praise  
That souls of ransomed sinners love to sing.  
I feel, but not with dying hands, the touch  
Of disembodied friends who welcome me.  
New faculties are struggling into birth  
Within my inmost being. All the past  
Is fading from my vision, as the night  
Dissolves when morning radiance floods the sky ;  
And this fair world, with all its pomp and power,  
Seems to my spirit, bursting from its thrall,  
A barren husk, from which I spring to gain  
A heritage of life for evermore !'

So spake the hermit, while the saintly crew  
Knelt round his couch to catch his dying words ;  
And when his voice was hushed, they still knelt on,  
To speed his parting with the breath of prayer.  
Was it a dream ? or did they hear a strain  
Of heaven's own music when he passed away ?

## V.

At morn, lo ! full before the pilgrims lay  
A ship with riven sails, whose wattled frame,  
Encased in skins, and patched from stern to prow,  
Creaked mournfully at every rocking wave.  
It was St. Brendan's vessel, homeward bound,  
After long years of quest in seas that lie  
On earth's extremest verge.

As soldiers meet  
When war is over, and they totter home  
Dauntless, but wounded sore, so met the saints ;  
And drifting side by side, they reached a shore  
Which beckoned them for converse and repose.  
There in a sheltered nook they lay, and thus  
The story of his quest St. Brendan told.

‘ Strange wonders have we seen, enough to quail  
The bravest heart ; monsters that haunt the deep  
Have chased us savagely with open jaws ;

Legions of devils have assaulted us  
In scenes of tenderest beauty ; raging storms  
Have hurled us into climes of endless night,  
Where lurid phantoms from the nether world  
Stream upwards and besiege the northern sky.  
Once, when the sea was waveless, and a glow  
Softer than sunlight, fairer than the morn,  
Lingered upon the deep, a galaxy  
Of islands rose before us, pure and bright  
As heaven's own glorious city ; and we dreamt  
That God at length had brought us to the bourne  
For which we yearned. But when we sought their shores,  
Some floated from us, others crashed apart,  
And plunged as though in mockery 'neath the sea.  
Then winter seized us with his iron grasp,  
And made the deep a jail of adamant,  
Compelling us to burrow in the ice,  
And pine in want and darkness till our hearts  
Had well-nigh ceased to beat.

When spring returned,  
And loosed the barriers of our prison-house,

We spread our sails again, and southward sailed.  
But darker woe befell us. In our course  
A mountain rose, seething with liquid fire  
That rent its slopes, and fell with hissing roar  
Into a zone of ice which girt its base.  
Awe-struck, we gazed thereat, when, lo ! a monk,  
Who, Judas-like, had joined our pilgrimage  
In hope of finding luxury and gold,  
And caring not for fellowship with Heaven,  
Grew deadly pale, and, clinging to the mast,  
Beheld, he said, strange forms of aspect fierce,  
Unseen by others, hovering round the ship,  
And heard a voice, to us inaudible,  
Which thundered to his soul the words, ' Depart !  
Thy master calls thee hence to yonder fire !  
Thou who art clothed with Satan's livery,  
Haste to the presence-chamber of thy lord !  
All realms but his fade from thy sight. Depart !  
He claims thee as his own ; his home is thine !'  
Then darkness fell, through which forked lightnings shot ;  
And when the day returned, the monk was gone.'

## VI.

‘Mourning our brother, trembling for ourselves,  
We hurried from that shore in speechless dread,  
And, sailing southwards, reached a fairer scene  
Than e’er before had burst upon our gaze.  
Mountains on mountains piled rose from the sea,  
Glorious with flocks, bright fields of golden corn,  
And silver streams that shimmered down the slopes ;  
Whilst on the coast, far as the eye could range,  
Trees of majestic beauty clustered round  
Tall pinnacles and gorgeous palaces.  
We neared the shore at sundown, when sweet chimes  
For evensong were blending with the tongues  
Of wingèd choristers and babbling waves ;  
And casting anchor, lay in joyful rest,  
Waiting with bounding hearts for morning light.

At midnight, when my weary comrades slept,  
And I was watching still the shadowy land,  
My name was uttered thrice, and on the shore

There rose before my dazzled gaze a form  
Of more than earthly beauty, clothed with robes  
Whose brightness paled the stars, and compassed  
round

With light, in which a glowing rainbow shone.  
'O Brendan,' said the vision, 'cease thy quest  
For life among the dead ! True is thy heart ;  
Thy yearning for the promised land is true.  
But vain thy wanderings. No fragile bark  
Shall ever bear thee to the sinless isles ;  
On them no waves can break, no tempests beat,  
No dream of worldly bliss its promise reap.  
Though earth is rolling past them evermore,  
They echo not to mortal voice, nor own  
Affinity with earthly elements.  
As clouds float thro' the viewless atmosphere,  
And know no kinship with its purity,  
Till dissolution melts them into air ;  
So human life, with all its accidents,  
Must wane and die to win the promised heaven  
In which it moves. Return then to thy home !

And there in faith and patience serve thy Lord !  
There in the task assigned to thee by Him  
Seek holy-ground, and light from Paradise  
Shall stream upon thy path. There let thy soul  
Strain ever upwards from its earthly ties,  
Purging its sight by mastery o'er the flesh ;  
Tracking the footprints of thy risen Lord ;  
Subduing evil by the might of prayer ;  
And when the clouds of life shall melt away,  
Thy feet shall stand upon the blessed shore !'  
So spake the heavenly youth, and darkness fell.

At morn the isle was hidden by a mist,  
And rising waves were thundering on the reefs,  
Warning us seaward. Up and down that coast  
Seven days we sailed, hearing the billows break  
Upon its rocky marge, but nevermore  
Saw we its glory. Sunlight shone again  
On sea and sky, but nothing met our gaze  
In all the wide expanse of desert waves,  
Save the blue ridges and the barren rocks.

## VII.

Then spake St. Malo : ' God reveals Himself  
In features manifold. Sometimes by speech  
Of sinful man He syllables His Will ;  
Sometimes He flashes light into the soul  
Straight from the eternal throne. And evermore,  
By outward weal and woe, His guiding Hand  
Uplifts the veil and points the way to rest.  
Once when a craven prophet sought in flight  
To win repose, God smote him with a storm,  
Submerged him in the deep, and taught him thence  
To rise and face with fearless zeal his task.  
So through the darkness of our fruitless quest  
He sheds a ray upon our destiny,  
Foreshadowing in our woes sublimer bliss  
Than we have vainly sought. What though the isles  
For which we yearned have never met our gaze !  
What though our frames have shrivelled to the bone,  
Tortured by hunger, scathed by wind and waves !



Has not our sight been chastened to perceive  
The heaven that lives in fellowship with God?  
Have we not, too, drawn nearer to its shore,  
And heard amidst conflicting elements  
An echo of its music in our souls?  
O brothers! let us falter not in faith,  
Nor fear that God will mock our weary quest.  
He woke our yearning for a purer clime;  
Brought us into the wilderness of waves;  
Taught us the barrenness of earthly dreams;  
Gave us such visions of our destiny,  
That neither death nor hell could dim our joy;  
And He will lead us, though we know not how,  
To the still haven where our souls would be!

That night the pilgrims lengthened out their prayers  
For home and rest, and when the earliest ray  
Of golden light shot upwards in the east,  
St. Malo, kneeling still upon the beach,  
Felt on his brow a touch invisible,  
As of an angel's hand, and heard a voice

Bidding him stand and watch the rising dawn.  
Then climbing to the summit of a rock,  
He saw on ocean's rim the rolling hills  
And towers of Aleth, clothed in purple, rise  
Against the rosy sky ; and as he gazed  
Rejoicing, lo ! a vista, paved with gems,  
Opened in heaven above them, and disclosed  
The gates of bliss.—‘ Behold the promised rest !’  
An angel cried ; ‘ In all thy wanderings  
It ever lies before thee ; but the road  
Thereto is visible to him alone  
Whose feet along the path of duty walk.  
Thither return ; and there, in toil for God,  
Watch, pray, and wait. So shall thy earthly home  
Catch heaven's own lustre till it merge in heaven !’

## THE SEPULTURE OF KING GERRANS.

A CORNISH LEGEND.

---

IT was the golden season of the year  
When good King Gerrans died, and joyful shouts  
Of harvest-home rose heavenward at what time  
His spirit past. But ere the morrow's sun  
Had looked on Roseland with his noonday glance,  
And listened for the reaper's wonted song,  
A blight had fallen upon the joy of harvest,  
And grief and silence brooded o'er the land—  
Silence that might be felt, like Egypt's gloom.  
In field and bower, palace and lowly cot,  
All mourned their King alike, with filial grief.  
They buried him at evening, when the sun  
Went down in glory ; and across the bay,  
From dark Din Gerein to the shore of Gwen Draeth,  
They bore him in a shallop decked with gold,

## 24 THE SEPULTURE OF KING GERRANS.

Winging its shining course with silver oars.  
A hundred galleys followed, and from them  
Pealed forth a holy chant, loud as the voice  
Of many waters, kindling joyful thoughts  
Of rest and glory for the blessed dead :  
And on the shore a mighty multitude,  
That fringed the bay, and darkened on the hills,  
Echoed the strain, while Ocean's solemn voice  
Thrilled in wild harmony, as if the song  
Rose from the vaults of Hadés.—  
Then o'er the sand the golden boat was borne,  
Raised on the shoulders of twelve giant knights,  
And up the steep the long procession moved  
With pausing tread. There on the brow of Carne  
They placed the shallop and its royal freight  
Beneath the heathery sod, and all that night,  
Whilst on the grave they heaped a lofty mound,  
To keep in mind and memory evermore  
The name and honour of their sainted King,  
They heard strange melody among the stars,  
And in the diapason of the sea.

ST. FABIAN.

---

THEY gathered in the minster's gloom,  
Perplexed and downcast all,  
For sadly stood their Bishop's tomb  
Beside the ancient wall ;  
And who should fill his sacred throne,  
Now good St. Anterus was gone ?

When, lo ! a Dove, all silvery white,  
As blossom on the bough,  
Came quivering in the vaulted height,  
And touched St. Fabian's brow :  
' A messenger from Heaven ! ' they cried ;  
' Fabian is our appointed guide ! '

Whence came that holy Bird? and where  
Her tarriance and her bowers?  
Do winter's footsteps wander there,  
To dream of summer flowers?  
Or is there not beneath her wing  
The glory of eternal spring?

Was it the Patriarch's Dove, which flew  
(So bygone legends tell)  
To Eden's groves of radiant hue,  
Where angel-warders dwell,  
And shared with them that hidden shore,  
A deathless Bird for evermore?

Or was it thou with mystic flight  
Bethabara's bird divine,  
Filled yet again with God's own light,  
The Spirit's breathing sign;  
Thy silver wings of heavenly mould,  
Thy feathers swift of living gold?

I know not ; but whene'er I see

A lone, swift-darting Dove,

St. Fabian's vision carries me

In thought to Eden's grove ;

And sure I am that, come what will,

The Bird of Heaven is with us still.

---

## LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS.

---

WHAT though yon traveller's upward path be steep,  
And far away the long-sought mountain-crest !  
What though at times he fain would halt and rest,  
Heedless of coming night and slumber deep !  
One downward glance on dreary wilds o'erpassed,  
Where now the mist of night begins to spread ;  
One upward gaze upon that radiance cast,  
Around his home that crowns the mountain's head ;  
And lo ! he mounts with swifter, firmer tread.  
So let the pilgrim Church look back and see  
Her toilsome path of victory through the past,  
So let her mark her glorious destiny ;—  
Then on with surer faith rejoicing run,  
Till all the kingdoms of the earth are won.



FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH.

---

WHY sit ye thus, ye craven souls,

Beneath the greenwood tree ?

Is this a time for listless ease

Or wanton revelry ?

Hark ! hear ye not the trumpet-call,

The boding battle-cry ?

Behold the armies of your God !

His chariot draweth nigh.

Arise and gird yourselves for war,

Count all beside but loss,

Ye who are reckoned Christian men,

And soldiers of the Cross !

30 FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH.

The foemen of your King are strong,  
And eager in the fight ;  
Up ! join His banner, quit yourselves  
Like faithful men of might !

Not alien hosts of earth alone  
Uplift the rebel hand ;  
Amidst their ranks, with sword and spear,  
The powers of darkness stand.  
Yet fear ye not, for mightier forms  
Amongst the faithful glide,  
E'en such as gathered round the seer  
Who humbled Syria's pride.

Soon must the fiery warfare cease,  
For eventide is nigh ;  
Soon shall the last loud trumpet wake  
The song of victory ;  
The Lord of Hosts o'er earth and hell  
Omnipotent shall reign ;

E'en now His coming glory beams  
Along the battle-plain.

Then everlasting joy to those  
Who toil and struggle well ;  
But woe to them who shall be found  
Amongst the ranks of hell ;  
And deeper woe to all who bear  
The Christian panoply,  
Yet do not fight, but lie at ease  
Beneath the greenwood tree.

---

# THE SKERRY OF SHRIEKS.

A NORWEGIAN LEGEND.

---

ROUND a rock on Norway's shore  
There is wailing evermore—  
Low and plaintive when the deep  
Sings his chafing waves to sleep ;  
But in strife of tempest fell,  
Thrilling as the shrieks of hell.

Warlocks, bound in durance there,  
Doom of living torment bear,  
Who to good King Olaf came,  
Wrapped in storm, and sleet, and flame,  
Wielding sword, and working spell,  
Norway's holy King to quell.

Panic through the Northmen ran,  
When the fiery strife began ;  
And the lightning's burning glow  
Winged the falchions of their foe ;  
Till the snowy plain was red  
With the dying and the dead.

Onwards, like a sweeping tide,  
Strode the warlocks, side by side ;  
Norway's chieftains, men of might,  
Melted, snowlike, from the fight ;  
And the deadly axe did ring  
On the helm of Norway's King.

Then rejoiced the warlocks grim,  
For his eye of fire grew dim ;  
But he looked to Heaven, and prayed  
To the Lord of Hosts for aid ;  
And upraised his shield, that shone  
With a silver cross thereon.

When, behold ! there streamed a light  
From that cross of silver bright,  
Blazing o'er the battle-plain,  
Like a sunset on the main ;  
And in stillness deep as death,  
Each in wonder held his breath.

Steel, uplifted for the blow,  
Gleamed unshaken o'er the foe ;  
Warrior, writhing mid the slain,  
Gazed, forgetful of his pain ;  
Even eyes in death grew bright,  
Turning to the wondrous light !

On the Pagan host it came  
With the burning breath of flame ;  
And they quailed, and turned in flight,  
Struck with everlasting night,  
O'er the plain, and down the steep,  
Headlong to the surging deep.

Then with thunder shook the caves,

Then uprose the bounding waves,

And with lion voices sung ;

Whilst a sudden shriek was flung

To the echoes of that shore,

And a wailing evermore.

---

## THE ALLELUIA VICTORY.

THIS famous victory of the Britons over the Picts and Saxons is said to have been won in Easter Week, A.D. 430, near Mold, in Flintshire ; and the spot where the armies met still retains the name of ' Maes Garmon,' *i. e.* the Field of Germanus.

---

TWO hostile hosts on Cambria's mountain-slopes  
Encamp at sunset. One, a Pagan horde  
From alien shores, unmatched in multitude,  
And veterans in war, who like a pest  
Of locusts have o'erswept the land to spoil  
And slay : the other, helpless fugitives,  
A shattered wreck of Britain's martial power ;  
Who, after unavailing war, have fled  
Into these mountain-gorges terror-stricken.  
All night derisive shouts and wanton songs  
Rise from the Pagans, mingled with the wails  
Of widowed captives, and of plundered flocks.



But other sounds thrill through the midnight gloom.  
German, a dauntless soldier of the Cross,  
Loving the vanquished Britons, seeks their camp,  
With weapons mightier than the mightiest sword,  
And bids them raise to Heaven the voice of prayer,—  
‘Save, Jesus, Conqueror of death and hell !  
Victorious Lord of Hosts, deliver us !’  
Such is their cry through all the weary night ;  
And rising from their knees at earliest dawn  
To meet the advancing foe, they shout in concert,  
‘ALLELUIA !’ Every voice rings out  
This battle-cry, and from the vales below  
The shout is answered ; babbling streams respond  
With silvery voices ; yawning dens and caves  
Thunder out ‘ALLELUIA !’ distant cliffs catch up  
The strain, and murmur ‘ALLELUIA !’  
Far up the mountain-sides the word is echoed ;  
Forest and crag, as with a thousand tongues,  
Cry ‘ALLELUIA !’ every mountain-peak  
Repeats in tones celestial ‘ALLELUIA !’  
And heaven itself prolongs the heavenly strain.

Awe-struck, the Pagans turn in headlong flight,  
As fled of old from Gideon's chosen band  
The hosts of Midian. Down the rocky slope  
In wild dismay they surge ; and at the base  
A mountain torrent, which they madly strive  
To ford, clasps them like autumn leaves, smites them  
Exultingly, and sweeps them to the sea.  
So evermore Thy foes have quailed, O Lord !  
When in extremest peril thine elect,  
Trusting in Thee alone, have raised to heaven  
The cry of faith and prayer !

---

L I N E S

ON THE CREW OF THE 'CALEDONIA,'

*Who were shipwrecked on the Coast of Morwenstow in the  
night-storm of September 8th, 1842.*

---

THEY looked in dismay to the shore,  
As they shot through the blackness of night ;  
And before them, on cliffs that re-echoed the roar,  
The billows dashed foaming and white :  
They quailed as they saw that Death's terrors were  
there,  
And clung to the mast with the grasp of despair.

They were hurled by the wind to their graves,  
As though storming the door of that home ;

They were dragged by waves harnessed like horses to  
waves,

Whose manes were white banners of foam ;  
Whilst voices of strife to a wild dirge were strung,  
And loud the death-wail of the mariners rung.

But mourn not those moments of pain !

Those terrors which hung on a breath !

For the tempest-worn rocks and the billowy main

Grew smooth as a pillow in death ;

And the surges that swept them to die on that shore,

Were chariots that bore them to rest evermore ! \*

---

\* One only of the crew of nine men escaped death. He was thrown on a ledge of rock, and scrambled up a precipice so steep and rugged that no human being would have attempted to climb it in broad daylight. I found him, a few hours after the wreck, speechless and covered with bruises, in a gully a quarter of a mile from the sea, and had him conveyed on a stretcher to my father's house, where he was tenderly nursed for several weeks.

## THE DYING BUSH-GIRL'S PRAYER.

THE following narrative was in substance given to the writer by Bishop Callaway, of an African child who died in this country in 1874, aged twelve years. She was entrusted to the Bishop by a Natal magistrate a few years before, having been captured by some Kaffirs from a horde of Bushmen, in a foray for the recovery of stolen cattle. 'When she first came to Springvale,' said the Bishop, 'she was as wild as any wild animal; but she soon became humanised, learned to talk the Zulu language, and to read, write, and sew. She came to England with us, learned to speak English, went to school, and was a favourite with everybody who knew her.'

---

'I LONG for home! O take me home!'

Such was the maiden's cry,  
As slowly ebb'd her life away  
Beneath our northern sky.  
'I hear a voice which calls me hence,  
I feel a guiding hand;  
Oh, let me speed across the sea  
To my own fatherland!'

‘ My child ! ’ her loving friends replied,  
‘ God orders what is best ;  
He gives you here a better home,  
And bids you be at rest.  
You may not cross the sea again,  
But Jesus, in His love,  
Will lead you hence by angel hands  
To brighter worlds above.’

In knowledge weak, to Paradise  
Her thoughts could not ascend ;  
But strong in faith, she spoke to God  
As to a present friend.  
Sure of His love, she doubted not  
The boon she sought would come,  
As still unceasingly she prayed,  
‘ My Father, take me home ! ’

And when she died, with beaming face,  
She grasped each friendly hand,

And whispered, ' I am going home

To Afric's sunny land.'

She asked for life on earth, God gave

Her life for evermore ;

She asked for home, and home was given

On God's celestial shore.

---

## A WINTER'S SONG.

---

I SAW a blackbird, when the piercing sting  
Of sudden frost was withering autumn flowers,  
Look to the languid sun, and sweetly sing  
A melody that breathed of springtide hours.  
The leaves were falling round him, and the wind  
Sobbed through the forest, but his placid mind,  
Heedless of woe that wintry days might bring,  
Seemed to rejoice in dreams of leafy bowers.  
I longed to learn that happy minstrel's lay,  
I loved it better far than summer songs ;  
From higher thoughts it thrilled its heavenward way,  
Than aught which to my faltering heart belongs ;  
For whilst I mourn or mope in days of sadness,  
That minstrel looks to heaven, and sings with gladness.



AT EVENING-TIME IT SHALL  
BE LIGHT.

---

DARK is the path the Church has trod,  
And dark the path before her,  
And storms sweep through the light of God,  
Whene'er it brightens o'er her.  
The powers of earth and hell combine  
To dim and quench her life divine.

Yet, strong in faith, she toils along  
Her pathway dark and gory,  
Weaving her griefs into a song  
Of coming joy and glory ;  
And chanting aye the promise bright,  
' At evening-time it shall be light.'

## THE LIVING WAY.

*‘Jesus said, I am the Way.’*

---

A RUGGED wild before me lies,  
Pathless, and filled with raging foes ;  
Misleading phantoms o’er it rise,  
And twilight shadows round me close ;  
But, hark ! I hear my Saviour say,  
‘Fear not, nor faint ! I am the Way !’

O Jesus ! Thou hast crossed this wild,  
Victorious in the might of GOD,  
And Thou canst lead Thy helpless child  
Safe by the path which Thou hast trod.  
O loving Jesus, be my guide,  
And let me in Thy presence hide.

Safe in the shelter of Thy love,  
Strong in the valour of Thy hand,  
Light streams upon me from above,  
And angel-warders round me stand.  
Why should I fear or go astray,  
When Thou, my Saviour, art the Way?

All that I need Thou dost provide,  
And all Thy mighty power is mine ;  
Foes cannot tear Thee from my side,  
Hell cannot quench Thy love divine ;  
O let me never faint nor roam,  
But in Thy mercy lead me home !

---

ST. MALO AND THE ROBIN.

---

A ROBIN having lost her nest one day,  
Spied on the ground St. Malo's coat, and lay  
An egg thereon, then watched in anxious fear  
The Saint, with spade in hand, approaching near.

The shelter of his coat he needed sore,  
For toil was over, and along the shore,  
Where lay the pathway to his lonely cell,  
Chill fogs at eventide were wont to dwell.

But when he saw the parent songster's care,  
He hastened by, and left his garment there ;  
Content to suffer cold, or loss, or wrong,  
Till the confiding bird had hatched her young.

His gentle deed was registered on high  
By Him who hears the ravens when they cry ;  
And in the courts of heaven St. Malo's name  
Won by that act of love undying fame.

---

## THE BARD'S LAMENT.

*Paraphrased from a prose translation of the Arabian poet Lebeid.*

---

THE lordly halls are desolate, the bowers of Nimia  
gone,

Where erst I saw the fair ones glide, where stars of  
beauty shone ;

Wild are the bosky hills of Goul, and Rijaam stands  
forlorn,

While floods have smoothed the streamlet's path, like  
graven rocks timeworn.

Ah ! many a weary month has passed since vows were  
plighted here :

And many a spring has tap'stried o'er these ruins lone  
and drear ;

The pitying thunder oft has moaned above the cheer-  
less scene ;

And morn and evening bathed with tears yon moun-  
tain's robe of green.

Lo ! briars crest the battlements, and thistles proudly  
grow,

And down the valley with her fawn unheeded stalks  
the doe ;

Here forest kine securely teach their bleating calves to  
roam,

And there the ostrich hides her eggs, and finds a  
sheltering home.

In vain, alas ! I linger here, in vain my wailings rise !

The voices that I seek are mute, and echo mocks my  
cries ;

A rugged waste is all I find, where stars of beauty  
shone—

The lordly halls are desolate, the bowers of Nimia  
gone.

## THE LAMBOURNE RIVER.

THIS stream, which rises at the base of the chalk hills in Berkshire, where in dry seasons there is sometimes great scarcity of water, is wont to flow abundantly in the summer and autumn months, however scanty the rainfall may be.

---

THE summer sun has scorched the hills,  
And upland springs are dry ;  
But Lambourne stream its channel fills,  
And flows most copiously.  
Its tributary brooks are gone,  
Yet full and wide that stream flows on.  
  
The fickle clouds withhold their store,  
All shallow wells have ceased ;  
Still down the vale its waters pour,  
Unfed, but yet increased ;  
And pastures on its banks abound,  
Though parching drought reigns all around.



Hark ! how the grateful insects sing  
That throng its willow bowers !  
What anthems of rejoicing ring  
Among its flags and flowers !  
How merrily the children play  
Where yonder babbling shallows stray !

Lo ! fainting flocks with transport skip  
To gain the river's side ;  
And pilgrim swallows love to dip  
Their plumage in its tide ;  
And cattle find their sweetest rest  
Beneath the trees that shade its breast.

Deep in the hills its storehouse lies,  
And, fed by God's own hand,  
It hoards the rain of other skies,  
To glad our thirsty land ;  
And earth has not a purer thing  
Than the bright waters of its spring.

So when the joys of life are low,  
And earthly pleasures wither,  
God's choicest gifts most richly flow,  
And shall flow on for ever ;  
No rainless sky, no scorching day,  
The well-spring of His love can stay.

---

## A U S T R A L I A.

---

SEA-GIRT Australia ! wild majestic land !  
World of the vast, the wonderful, the grand !  
What though we cannot sing thy deeds of fame,  
Nor trace in storied chronicles thy name !  
Though darkness shrouds thy birth, and memory's rays  
Can flash no light upon thine ancient days,  
Yet living glories to thy shores belong,  
Worthy of pilgrim's feet and poet's song ;  
For thou art clothed in nature's virgin guise,  
Sunned by the rosy light of eastern skies,  
Cheered with rejoicing streams and copious showers,  
Robed with wide forests ; tapestried with flowers,  
And English manhood streams across the sea,  
To reproduce Old England's life in thee.

Within thy wondrous bound the Maker's hand  
Has placed a counterpart of every land—  
Lo ! in the distance, 'neath Italian skies,  
Wild Cambria's hills and Alpine mountain rise !  
Behold America's wide lakes and woods,  
Mingled with barren Syria's solitudes !  
See yon white line of cliffs, such as of yore  
The invading Roman saw on Britain's shore !  
And such uncultured plains as shepherds trod,  
When there were giants in the land of God.

Here to those desert wastes, where sun and rain,  
Through ages past, have poured their wealth in vain,  
There comes to plow, and sow with toil-worn hand,  
Impelled by poverty, a peasant band.  
Anon vast flocks and herds the plains adorn,  
And fertile vales grow bright with golden corn ;  
Wide rivers through luxuriant pastures shine,  
With Eucalyptus fringed, and towering pine ;  
And homesteads rise, each bearing some dear name  
Of the far country whence its owner came.

Here too are men of features stern and rude,  
Lords by their birthright of this solitude,  
Who live and die unconscious as the sod  
That into man was breathed the breath of God.  
Wild as their kangaroos, they idly roam  
The pathless mazes of their forest home ;  
Now pealing through the vales, in savage glee,  
The yell of triumph or of revelry ;  
Now racked by hunger, prowling wide and far  
To hunt the emu and the fleet bondar.\*  
No cheering ray of mental radiance gleams  
Upon their stormy souls, no gladsome dreams  
Of future bliss, no consciousness of life  
Beyond the fleeting scene of nature's strife ;  
Past, Present, Future, all to them is gloom,  
Devoid of hope, and cheerless as the tomb.  
Poor outcast sons of ignorance and woe,  
For them the tear of pity oft should flow ;  
Compelled to fly to deeper solitude,

---

\* The name by which the aborigines designate the kangaroo.

When strangers on their heritage intrude ;  
And there, as exiles from their country torn,  
To pine, despised, dejected, and forlorn.

Yet we to whom the awful power is given  
Of making hopeless sinners heirs of heaven,  
Could raise these weakest children of our race  
To take among the sons of God their place.  
Then, where is wont to ring the war-whoop's yell,  
The calm of heavenly love and peace would dwell ;  
And sweetly from their native vales would rise  
The voice of praise, as incense to the skies.

. . . . .

Where Lachlan's winding torrent rolls along,  
Is heard the cadence of the shepherd's song ;  
On smooth Macquarrie's banks, in Darling's glades,  
Sullen and dark with palm and myrtle shades,  
And where majestic Murray's waters leap  
With bounding steps towards the mighty deep,

The hand of culture decks full many a scene  
With flocks, and waving corn, and meadows green.

Along the shores Trade's fearless wings expand,  
And bear Australia's boons to every land :  
From many a bay the freighted vessel hies,  
Where busy marts and youthful cities rise,  
As rose of old the wealthiest that have been,  
Carthage, and haughty Tyre, the merchant queen.

Daughter of promise, queenly land, rejoice !  
Let thy wild woods lift up a gladsome voice !  
Thy streams awaken as they glide along  
Their murmuring cadence to a joyous song !  
For lustre gathers round thy youthful brow,  
And glory suns thy morning even now.  
It needeth not a prophet's glance to see  
The bursting germ of regal strength in thee ;  
Which soon with giant energy shall rise,  
Vast as thy shores, and glorious as thy skies !  
Harvests shall clothe with beauty all thy vales,

And social gladness float upon the gales ;  
Tower and turret crown the mountain crest,  
Where now the eagle peacefully may rest ;  
And village spires, to heaven directing, tell  
That faithful English hearts within thy bosom dwell.

---



## THE PATH OF LIGHT.

---

HAST thou not marked a sunset stream  
Of light across the ocean gleam,  
Joining, as with a jewelled band,  
This earthly with the heavenly land ?

Hast thou not dreamt that angels' feet  
Glance lightly o'er that golden street,  
Trailing God's glory as they glide  
To pave with gems the restless tide ?

So o'er the flood of time there lies  
A path of radiance to the skies,  
Bridging the gulf from earth's dark shore  
To Zion's gate, for evermore.

Christ spread that heavenly road, and trod  
With human feet its course to God ;  
That we, when earthly joys grow dim,  
Heaven's bliss may gain by tracking Him.

The blindest pilgrim need not stray,  
For angels guard the narrow way ;  
And Christ Himself, in love and might,  
Upholds us in that path of light.

---

FRAGMENTS FROM CADWAL  
AND CARADOC.

*An Unpublished Poem, written in Youth.*

---

THE shades of night their wings outspread  
From the rising dawn to fly,  
And the sun mounts up from his cloudy bed  
On the edge of the eastern sky.  
Sweet songsters wake in the leafy bowers,  
Bright dewdrops gem the lustrous flowers ;  
Tufts of grey lichen on the rocks  
Shine forth like silver fairy-locks,  
And gorse that crowns each rugged height  
Is kindled into golden light.  
Such is the lovely scene that lies  
Before the Christian captive's eyes,

What time the Druids wend their way  
Up the steep slopes of stern Karn Brae,  
Chanting in unison this strain,  
And followed by an armèd train :—  
    Come, mighty Belus ! come  
    Down from thy dazzling home,  
That sweeps triumphantly along the sky !  
    Come from thy starry land,  
    Where wingèd spirits stand,  
    A bright unnumbered band,  
Who wait thy high behest to spread their wings and fly.  
    Accept our sacrifice,  
    The smoke of which shall rise  
As incense to thy dwellings of delight.  
    And from the fount of bliss,  
    In streams of happiness,  
Let blessings now descend with thy refulgent light.

Forth from the bowers on high  
Thy beams of glory fly,  
And fill the vaulted sky,

And on the teeming earth in beauty rest ;  
And on the desert sea  
They sparkle gloriously,  
And robe like angel smiles the bounding billows'  
breast.

Earth lifts her voice to sing  
Thy praise, Eternal King,  
And hills and valleys ring  
With the exultance of our joyous song.  
Come ! mighty Belus, come  
Down from thy dazzling home,  
And see the victim bleed, and bless thy waiting  
throng.

. . . . .

Strange figures of unearthly cast  
Before the holy seers have passed,  
And sounds of woe have followed them  
From tongues unknown to mortal men ;  
Whilst mystic visions dark and dread

Scare them at midnight from their bed.  
Oft in the grove the old oaks wave  
Their branches, as when tempests rave,  
Though topmost leaves feel not a breath,  
And all around is still as death.  
The shady hours of eventide  
In soothing silence cease to glide ;  
For with the darkness whirlwinds rise,  
Or ocean dims with foam the skies,  
Or breezes, as they sweep along,  
To moanings change their wonted song ;—  
Such are the signs of wrath that flow  
Before the mountain waves of woe.

. . . . .

My hope is fixed, my trust is strong  
In Him who rolls the stars along ;  
Who reigns wherever thought can fly,  
Supreme in heaven, and earth, and sky ;  
Who bids revolving seasons be,  
And graspeth dread eternity.  
He placed the shining orbs on high,

The silent pilgrims of the sky ;  
He formed the universe so vast,  
And man to live when earth is past ;  
He made him ruler of the sod,  
He gave him powers to serve his God ;  
And when to sin and death he fell,  
His blood redeemed the race from hell.  
He is my guide, my fortress strong,  
My shield, my refuge, and my song ;  
And though fierce hate and vengeful ire  
Pursue me like consuming fire,  
My soul, with calm and comfort blest,  
Shall look to Him, and be at rest.

. . . . .

Alas, my soul ! thy fairest hopes have perished  
Like roses born to wither in the blight ;  
All the glad visions thou hast fondly cherished  
Have set in darkness blacker than the night.  
And thou art doomed in loneliness to languish,  
And evermore a secret grief to bear,

Without one human friend to soothe thine anguish,  
Stung with the fiery frenzy of despair.

There is no rest for me, an exile, flying  
From death, to die upon the stormy wave ;  
The darkness of despair, the voice of sighing,  
Shall fill my lonely pathway to the grave.

Glide swiftly on, my bark ! no human dwelling  
Shall stem thy course upon the plains of foam ;  
Where boundless waves eternally are swelling,  
O'er Ocean's awful deserts thou shalt roam.

God of the winds and waters, Whose dominions  
Enshroud on every side the mighty deep ;  
Who ridest on the whirlwind's swarthy pinions,  
And reignest where the gentle breezes sleep ;

Be Thou my refuge, as in days departed ;  
Be Thou my shield till life and sorrow cease ;  
And when I perish, faint and broken-hearted,  
O guide my wave-worn soul to shores of peace.



## THE DEATH OF ST. COLUMBA.

---

IT was the hour of sunset, and the time  
Signalled by angels, when Iona's saint  
Should pass from earthly toil to heavenly rest.  
A presage of his end weighed heavily  
On every heart, and hastening from their tasks  
In field and barn and school, where patiently  
Each in his office had been serving God,  
The monks assembled on the pebbly shore  
To wait for Diarmid, expected soon  
With tidings of their father resting there.  
Each read his sorrow on the brows of all.  
And as the purple gloom of evening rose,  
Quenching the golden ray that crowned Ben More,  
All nature seemed to throb responsively.

Sunset was limned with images of death,  
Fading from earth, but brightening in the sky ;  
Voices of ocean chanted requiems,  
Shadows of twilight fell like funeral-palls,  
And sea-birds shrieked as though they mourned the  
dead.

Anon came Diarmid, on whose strong arm  
The saint was wont to lean, and thus he spake :  
‘ Angels have long been tarrying on our shores  
To lead our father home. Seven days ago  
A brother followed him to Machar’s plain,  
Whither he went for solitude and prayer,  
And saw a shining host encircling him,  
Clothed in apparel brighter than the sun ;  
And yesternight their presence filled his cell  
With heavenly light, which shot like streams of fire  
From every chink, brightening the mountain-tops,  
And shimmering o’er the sea. To-day at noon  
He bade me lead him up the rocky hill,  
That he might see once more the cloud-capped peaks,

Dark glens, and silvery streaks of loch and bay,  
On which his eyes so oft had loved to dwell.  
Soon waxing faint, he paused to rest awhile  
Beneath the wayside cross, when lo ! his steed,  
Feeble and grey with age, drew near. The saint  
Arose to greet him with a fond embrace,  
And the dumb creature lovingly returned  
His sympathy, brimming his eyes with tears,  
Resting his head upon his master's neck,  
And breathing, though with voiceless utterance,  
The tenderest spirit of the word, Farewell.

‘ Then climbing to the peak, the holy man  
Invoked God’s smile on mountain, sea, and shore,  
Man, beast, and bird, church, school, and granary ;  
And spoke, with outstretched hands, this prophecy :  
“ The days shall come when saints from distant lands  
Shall flock with reverence here ; kings too shall seek  
This shore with gifts, to honour God, and kneel  
Beside our graves.”

‘Thence to his cell we came  
With pausing steps, and there the weary saint,  
Reclining on his couch of stone, breathed forth  
His dying counsel, gently bidding me  
“ Be true to Christ in faith and fellowship,—  
True to His Church in humbleness and zeal,—  
True to life’s daily task, whate’er it be,—  
True to God’s utterance within the soul,—  
Patient of injury, and kind to all.’  
Then, as he willed to be alone with God,  
He bade me leave him, and the cell was filled,  
Ere I had passed the door, with Heaven’s own light.’

So spake the monk, and all in silent awe  
Withdrew, to strengthen by the might of prayer  
The saint’s departing soul.

At early morn,  
With the first gleam of dawn, the matin bell  
Rang out its call, when lo ! the dying saint,  
Ever obedient to its summons, rose,

Heedless of pain and death, to seek the spot  
Where he was wont to kneel. There on the floor,  
Prostrate before the altar, he was found ;  
And when they raised him, bliss ineffable  
Was beaming on his face, and with a smile  
He raised his hands to bless, and passed away.

---

IN MEMORIAM.

H. R. E. 1876.

---

HIS calm and peaceful life has closed, but not  
The memory of his deeds. Death cannot dim  
Its brightness. Men will honour him  
Alike in lordly hall and lowly cot,  
But chiefest in the home of homeless poor,  
Where he was wont to toil, and evermore  
To lavish sympathy and unrequited care.  
His generous hand and heart we ill can spare,  
For few among his peers can match the zeal  
With which in duty's path he bravely trod ;  
And fewer still subserve the public weal  
With his true love for man, and faith in God.  
He sought not honour, wooed not worldly fame ;  
A life of goodness wreaths a halo round his name.

PRINCE CHARLES EDWARD AFTER THE  
BATTLE OF CULLODEN.

Καὶ θνατὸν οὕτως ἔθνος ἄγει  
μοῖρα.

—PINDAR, *Nem.* xi. 43.

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HATH the sea life and knowledge? doth there roll  
Deep in the breast of waves a conscious soul?  
Is there a spirit in the storm that thrills  
The mountain-heart of the eternal hills?  
Do the winds sigh with sorrow? and their moan,  
Is it some voice that glides and breathes alone?  
Is woe upon the rivers when they grieve  
In mournful music round the couch of eve?  
Is there a sense in earth and air and sky  
When the brave falter and the mighty die?  
For lo! around Clanranald's lonely cave  
The grief of many waters swells the wave,

The winds of night their dirge of battle bring  
From the lost field of Scotland's exiled King,  
And worn and sad, his warriors far away,  
The baffled Stuart mourns Culloden day.\*  
His Highland hearts are hushed—the strife is o'er  
That shook the shield and waved the good claymore ;  
Low now is laid Glengarry's trusty steel,  
And quenched the flashing brands of brave Lochiel ;  
Murray—Macdonald—Keppoch—coldly gone,  
And mute the warrior-cry of Cameron.

Dark was the night, and thick with gloom the day,  
Where sad and worn the weary chieftain lay ;  
Friends—kinsfolk—warriors fled, and lonely there  
The hope that lingered yet was half despair.  
Scant was the boon he craved,—that deep repose  
For one short hour might win him from his woes :  
But slumber would not soothe his rocky bed,

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\* 'The die was risked and foully cast

Upon *Culloden day*.'

—*Jacobite Reliques*, vol. ii. Song lxxiv.



Nor o'er that burning brow her solace shed ;  
 Wakeful he lay, and heard the fretting gale  
 Loud moaning o'er the braes of Corrodale ;  
 Now hailing mid the storm's unearthly roar  
 The sorrow of his mighty sires of yore ;  
 Now yearning to defy the foe again,  
 And wield the sword of vengeance for the slain ;  
 Dreaming that Heaven his shield and strength would  
     be,  
 To weave once more the wreath of victory.\*  
 But cease thy dreams, lone Prince ; on yonder height,  
 Behold ! unwonted fires are gleaming bright !  
 And hark ! there echoes round yon ruddy glow  
 The martial music of th' unsparing foe.†

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\* Throughout his wanderings, Charles' confidence in the protection of Providence was remarkable. In speaking of the hardships which he had undergone to one of his companions, he said, ' Since the battle of Culloden, I have endured more than would kill a hundred men ; sure Providence does not design this for nothing. I am certainly yet reserved for some good.'—See *Chambers' History of the Rebellion*, p. 106.

† Lord Mahon says there were at this time on the Long Island militia and regular troops to the number of 2000 men, engaged in eager search for the Prince, while the shores were surrounded by small vessels of war, and that concealment or escape must have proved alike impossible but for Flora Macdonald.

O'er mount and wave they urge their noble prey  
As bursts the hound upon the stag at bay ;  
On through the wild they come with kindling eye—  
And shall to-morrow see the victim die ?  
Ah no ! a star is on the brow of night,  
From the dark cloud there leaps a living light ;  
Hope shall again the wanderer's woes beguile,  
And pity live at last in woman's smile.

High-minded Flora,\* deathless fame be thine,  
Fair daughter of Macdonald's storied line ;  
Strong was thy soul—the truth of man above—  
And thy heart beat with more than woman's love.  
Thee from the hunted exile's lonely side  
Woe could not sever, nor could death divide.  
Long as his memory lives thy deeds shall claim  
The glory of a high and noble name,

---

\* 'We were entertained with the usual hospitality by Mr. Macdonald and his lady, Flora Macdonald, a name that will be mentioned in history, and, if courage and fidelity be virtues, mentioned with honour. She is a woman of middle stature, soft features, gentle manners, and elegant presence.'—*Johnson's Journey to the Hebrides*, p. 63.

And wreath the rugged brow of war with smiles,  
 Thou hero-maiden of the Western Isles !  
 Lo ! o'er the deep they glide—that island maid,  
 And the lorn Prince in homely garb arrayed :—  
 Frail is their bark, yet seaward o'er the waves  
 That seek Benbecula's resounding caves,  
 They swiftly bound, till, bright with sunset's smile,  
 Behind them gleams the brow of Rona's isle.  
 Yet seaward still the steadfast boatmen sweep,  
 For well they know who bids them brave the deep ;—  
 That vesture cannot veil,\* those weeds efface  
 His kingly bearing, his majestic grace.  
 Now isle and headland fade, and shadowy night  
 Frowns on the woful wanderer's dreary flight ;  
 Home to their beetling crag the sea-birds fly,  
 And raise with tuneless shriek their boding cry ;

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\* ' Bishop Forbes informs us that he more than once heard Macleod speak of the utter uselessness of the Prince attempting to dissemble the indefinable air which distinguished him. "There is not a person," he said, "who knows what the air of a noble or great man is, but, upon seeing the Prince in any disguise he could put on, would see something about him that was not ordinary—something of the stately and the grand."—JESSÉ, *Memoirs of the Pretenders*, vol. ii. p. 68.

While the swart raven sails with pinion slow,  
And hoarsely breathes a prophet-voice of woe ;  
And the deep thunder of the raging seas  
Is echoing round the rocky Hebrides,  
As though Iona's genii, roused from sleep,  
Had called the hosts of air to war along the deep.  
Yet hark ! the chieftain chants in accents bold \*  
Some thrilling legend of the days of old,  
And breathes the strain those billowy paths along  
As though he soothed the waves of night with song.  
See now they fondly seek the welcome shore,  
And deem their refuge won, their peril o'er.  
But lo ! the flash ! the sound ! and o'er them fly  
The hissing balls—the foe, the foe is nigh ! †

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\* 'Exposed is such a vessel in the cold night air, at the mercy of a raging sea, and at the same time haunted by the fear of man's more deadly hostility, the sensations of the little party cannot be supposed to have been very agreeable. Charles could not help perceiving the uneasiness of his attendants, and anxious to compensate, by all the means in his power, for the pain which he had occasioned to them, he endeavoured to sustain their spirits by singing and talking. He sang the lively old song entitled "The Restoration," and told a few playful stories, which yielded them some amusement.'—CHAMBERS, p. 99.

† 'Approaching the coast of Skye, they were received by a volley of musketry from the soldiers stationed there, but none of the balls took

There on the shore in grim array they throng,  
And cave and rock the volleying peal prolong.

He fled—but not from woe ; full many a day  
Beheld him o'er the island deserts stray  
All desolate and lone, while midnight shed  
Her pitying tears o'er his unsheltered head.  
Famished and weary on the shores of Skye,  
The peasants marked his woe with softening eye ;  
Lone Raasay's shepherds saw him rest awhile  
In the deep valleys of their rugged isle ;  
And round his couch of heather, when he slept,  
With faithful care unwearied watches kept.  
But thither rushed the foe, and Moidart's shore  
Beckoned from far the wanderer's feet once more ;  
Again he sought Loch Shiel's forsaken strand,  
Where erst exulting marched his eager band ;  
Again he trod the heath of Finnan's vale,

---

effect, and the rowers, vigorously plying their oars, bore them away from that scene of danger, and enabled them to disembark at another point.'—  
MAHON, vol. iii. p. 500.

Where first his banner caught the mountain gale ;—  
But mute the echoes which had hailed him there,  
And sad the silence of that desert lair.  
The sea-bird saw him on her crag intrude,  
The eagle on his stormy solitude,  
The homeless clansman, driven by the foe  
To lofty ranges of the mountain roe,  
In wild amazement met the exile there,  
Wasted and pale with want, and worn with care.\*  
Where'er he gazed, the Victor's waving brand  
Shed war and desolation o'er the land ;  
Where'er he turned, the gathering foe was near,  
And pass and valley dark with plume and spear.

Now in Glenmorrison behold him stand  
Beneath the shieling of a robber-band !  
The daring Seven, of aspect stern and rude,  
Who boldly held that haughty solitude.

---

\* A monument bearing a Latin inscription still points out the memorable spot.

No aliens they—on dark Culloden's plain  
 For him their mighty claymores heaped the slain.  
 No dâstârd souls—they vowed in kindled ire,  
 When o'er their dwellings rose th' avenging fire,  
 To front again the whelming tide of woe,  
 And brave with sheathless steel th' insulting foe.  
 Cheered by the faith of true and steadfast men,\*  
 The Stuart lingers in that desert glen,  
 And like the Bruce of old, in Rachin's isle  
 Mid darkest peril finds repose awhile.

'Tis midnight, and around the lawless band,  
 A watchful host, the shadowy mountains stand ;  
 While high in heaven is glimmering fair and bright  
 The starry diadem of solemn night.  
 On far Ben Nevis sleeps the moonlight gleam,  
 O'er still Loch Ness the stars in beauty beam,  
 And mid yon cavern glides that radiance pale,  
 Where slumbering lie the champions of the vale.

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\* See an account of these famous robbers, generally called The Seven Men of Glenmorriston, in Chambers, p. 116.

But lo ! the Chief on bended \* knee is there—  
Apart he breathes the thrilling voice of prayer !—  
Thou murm'ring breeze, be silent ! hush thy moan,  
Thou rushing stream, beneath that hallowed tone !—  
And ye to whom yon radiant realms are given,  
Bright angel warders, waft the vow to Heaven !

Anon the cave is tenantless, and now  
The wanderer rests on stern Benalder's brow,  
Where mantling heath and rifted rock conceal  
The faithful Cluny and the brave Lochiel.†  
There in that mountain-home of storm and blast,  
Hope sheds her rainbow o'er his doom at last,  
And soon he hails in Moidart's sheltering bay  
The bark that waits to bear him far away.

Oh ! dark the gloom that o'er his spirit fell  
When to the mountain-land he bade farewell,

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\* 'He was observed to make a practice of withdrawing himself every morning and evening to perform his devotions.'—CHAMBERS, p. 117.

† 'They resided in a singular retreat, called the Cage, on the side of Mount Benalder ; it was concealed by a close thicket, and half suspended in the air.'—LORD MAHON'S *History of England*, vol. iii. p. 504.



And saw the valley fade, the cliff grow dim  
 From whence the Monarch-Bird had welcomed him.\*  
 There once had gleamed his glory's meteor ray—  
 There trod the stately Seven†—but where were they?  
 Thence with the brave he sought the path of Fame—  
 And there returned—but crushed and lone he came.  
 Was it a dream? alas! beside him rose  
 The chieftain's sigh, the clansman's murmured woes;  
 For there were bursting hearts, the shattered wreck  
 Of Fate and Fortune, on that woful deck!

Oh! had he found the hero's glorious grave,  
 And perished on Culloden with the brave,  
 Nations had breathed his dirge, and deathless Fame  
 Hallowed for aye the latest Stuart's name.  
 Though bright his Morn with manhood's joyous pride,

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\* 'As they neared the shore, an eagle that came hovering round the ship, delighted the adventurers by its favourable augury. "Here," said Lord Tullibardine, turning to his master, "is the king of birds come to welcome your Royal Highness to Scotland."'—MAHON, vol. iii. p. 342.

† 'These were afterwards designated as the "Seven Men of Moidart," and the subsequent fate of each has been explored by the Jacobites with mournful curiosity.'—*Ibid.*, vol. iii. p. 346.

How thick the darkness fell at Eveningtide ! \*  
Monarchs forsook who fostered him of old,  
And faithless Gallia's ancient love grew cold.  
Then, stung with treachery and seared with care,  
He bowed his soaring spirit to despair ;  
Sought in excess and passion Lethe's gloom,  
And steeled the hearts that softened o'er his doom.  
Yet oft the buried hope of youth would burn,  
The ancient zeal, the former soul return ;  
Still were his country's faithful warriors dear,  
Still would he shed for her the patriot's tear ;—  
E'en when old age with pain and sorrow came, †  
The pibroch's note could wake the slumbering flame.

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\* 'His character had darkened with his fortunes. A long train of disappointments and humiliations working on a fiery mind, spurred it almost into frenzy and degraded it. The habit of drinking, which for some years he indulged without restraint, seems to have been first formed during his Highland adventures and escapes, when a dram of whisky might sometimes supply the want of food and rest.'—MAHON, vol. iii. p. 554.

† 'It is also an affecting, and, I may surely add, redeeming circumstance in the life of this ill-fated Prince, that amongst the amusements of his last and lonely hours was that of playing on the Highland bagpipe those airs which in his brighter days soothed him in the bivouac, or led him to victory.'—CHAMBERS, p. 143.

Scion of warrior sires, his flashing eye  
Shone with the pride of old, and yearned for Victory.

Land of the loyal, when the Stuart fell,  
Thy faithful Mountains sighed a fond farewell,  
The dirge of Freedom pealed along the gale,  
And tears of Sorrow flowed in every vale ;  
Yet did that Conflict quell despotic sway,  
It was the storm that rolled thy thrall away,  
The Cloud of Mercy hovering o'er thy tears,  
A Fiery Pillar in thy path of years.  
Still do thy children love Prince Charlie's name,  
Like flowers along thy valleys lives his fame ;  
Still many a bard in thrilling numbers sings  
The hero-offspring of a hundred kings ;  
Thy shepherds love to linger where he stood,  
Of Gladsmuir sing, and ancient Holyrood ;  
Tell how he fought that unavailing day,  
And sigh once more Culloden's woes away.  
But memory kindling wakes a happier theme,  
They see their homes in conscious gladness beam ;

The hills that echo with the hunter's horn,  
The valleys where they bind the golden corn,  
The peaceful throne where queenly beauty smiles,  
And vassal-nations greet the Lady of the Isles.

Mid alien graves he sleeps ! the stately dome  
Of Tiber's ancient city shrouds his tomb !  
Peace to his ashes ! tho' they coldly lie  
Where heroes sleep, and wrecks of grandeur sigh,  
No relique hallows more that solemn shrine  
Than the last urn of Stuart's haughty line.  
Well might he roam, with slow and pausing tread,  
The Pilgrim Bard,\* the Minstrel of the dead,  
To hail amid the tombs that kindling name,  
Theme of his youth, and hero of his fame !  
Lo ! as he leans upon his staff, return  
The former dreams—the ancient glances burn !  
Bright Holyrood is there—the pibroch rings,

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\* 'Soon after his arrival I took Sir Walter to St. Peter's, which he had resolved to visit, that he might see the tomb of the last of the Stuarts.'—See *Scott's Life by Lockhart*, vol. vii. p. 363.

And stately Flora moves, a mate for kings !  
There smiles the Prince mid deeds of war and pride,  
For Waverley hath won his blushing bride !  
See ! yet again the scene of battle shines,  
And proud Mac Ivor leads the serried lines !  
Now stern Redgauntlet waves the burning brand,  
Lord of the dinted brow and ruthless hand !  
Ah ! who shall tell how yearned the Minstrel's mind  
To breathe again these visions to the wind !  
To chant once more the legend of his lay,  
And chide with spells of song his grief away !  
In vain ! e'en then the gloom of night was nigh,  
The shadows brooded o'er the poet's eye—  
Yet, liegeman true, he stood beside yon bier ;  
The scenes he loved in youth, in age were dear ;  
His latest sigh to Scotland's fame he gave,  
And his last dream was on her Stuart's grave !  
Quenched was the soul of song—Health—Hope had  
fled !  
The Bard was dying whilst he wept the dead.

## THE LADY OF LYONESSE.

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### I.

A LAND of matchless grace was Lyonesse,  
Glorious with rolling hills, rejoicing streams,  
Hoar monuments upreared when time was young,  
Wide plains of forest, slopes of golden corn,  
And stately castles crowning granite peaks.  
Thence sprang Trevilyan, Cornwall's bravest knight,  
Heir of the noblest lineage in the land,  
Whose sire could tell of exploits he had wrought  
Beneath great Arthur's banner, when he swept  
Fierce hordes of Saxon thieves from Cornish soil.  
And there dwelt Gwyneth, lily of the west,  
Shaped to be loved by all who saw her face,  
And holding men in thralldom with her glance.

Trevilyan's heart and hers had met in youth,  
And learnt to love each other, ere they knew  
The name of love. Oft in their childish sport  
He was her valiant knight, and she his queen,  
With daisy-chaplets crowned. But brief their bliss,  
For when his youthful arm could wield the sword,  
The martial trump was blown, and with the brave  
He left the joys of home to meet the foe.

## II.

Ere long came tidings of his valiance,  
How on the Tamar's banks a pagan host  
Had hemmed him round, and how he hewed them down,  
Cleaving their helmets with his battle-axe,  
Till Tamar's torrent reddened with their blood.  
Then through the land his bright renown was sung,  
And roses bloomed on Gwyneth's lily cheeks.  
But other tidings followed.—From the camp  
There came a wounded soldier, who had seen  
The hero fall in fight, pierced through the helm,  
And dragged by savage foemen from the field.

Then ached the hearts of Lyonesse with dole,  
Alike in peasant cot and lordly tower ;  
And Gwyneth's roses withered from her cheeks ;  
Yet fitfully returned, whene'er she heard  
Trevilyan's prowess sung in bower and hall.  
No more in dance and tournament was seen  
Her kindling eye. No more in forest glades  
With blithe companions rang her merry voice.  
She dwelt apart from joy, and could not tell  
Her dearest friend the secret of her woe ;  
Too sacred seemed it to be noised in speech,  
Too pure and deep for human utterance.

## III.

Sorrow and joy clashed strangely, when the troops  
Returned victorious from the deadly strife :  
Pœans of welcome, wailing for the slain,  
Tears of the widow, greetings of the wife,  
Darkened and cheered the hearths of Lyonesse.  
But all save Gwyneth halved their grief with friends,  
Or by rejoicing multiplied their joy.



Lone as a stricken deer she mourned and wept,  
Soothed by no human solace, for none knew,  
But God alone, the secret of her heart.

## IV.

Seven years of peaceful plenty filled the land,  
When wasting war had ceased, but rivalry  
In pride and grandeur followed, which unstrung  
The manhood of the knights ; corrupting peace  
Till it became a deadlier scourge than war,  
And breeding luxury, with all its train  
Of lusts and indolence. Greedy of gold,  
For idle pomp, and not for deeds of love,  
The wealthy wealthier grew ; and envious serfs,  
Prone to the faults and foibles of their lords,  
Waxed haughty, grasping, false to man and God.  
But whilst the world grew baser, Gwyneth's soul  
Became more heavenly, finding balm for grief  
In prayer to God, and resting trustfully  
In conscious love that could not change nor fail.  
Ere long her parents died, and she was left,

Sole issue of their house and lineage,  
To rule the vassals of a wide domain.  
Great was her fame for beauty, greater still  
For gentleness, and many a gallant knight,  
Radiant with dreams of love, approached her bower,  
But crestfallen rode away ; and lordly chiefs  
Assayed in vain to blend with theirs her name.  
Constant as Ocean's daily ebb and flow  
In fealty to the tender queen of night,  
Flowed the deep current of her lonely life,  
True to the memory of Trevilyan's love ;  
And every tree and flower around her home,  
To which some act of his had lent a charm,  
Smiled on her constancy ; whilst babbling waves  
Discoursed of days when hand in hand they roamed  
Along the pebbly shore, and angels seemed  
To whisper evermore, 'Faint not, true heart !  
The spring wells forth to catch the rays of light ;  
The storm-cloud wears a rainbow on its breast ;  
The midnight gloom reveals the depths of light ;  
Love on ;—no truthful heart can love in vain !'

## V.

Hard by th' ancestral home of Gwyneth lay  
A lonely combe, whose slopes were bright with gorse  
And lichen-covered rocks. A merry stream  
Danced down its bed in playful cataracts ;  
Now plunging into depths arched o'er with ferns  
Of rarest growth, and tangled clematis ;  
Now dashing forth and eddying into pools,  
Where trout and grayling found a quiet home.  
There in that glen once dwelt a saintly man,  
Who from a distant clime had brought Christ's words  
Of light and life to pagan Lyonesse ;  
And the rude chapel which his hands had built  
Still witnessed to his faith, though evil times  
Had dimmed its brightness. Thither day by day  
Went Gwyneth, to repose in solitude  
Her weary heart on God ; and oft she strayed  
Beyond the chapel to the shore, to watch  
The sunset-rubies gem the emerald sea.  
Emerging from the glen one summer eve,

Lo ! full before her in the placid cove  
A vessel lay, and on the sand a boat,  
With sailors standing by of aspect stern.  
Ere she could turn, two ruffians from behind  
Grappled her hands, and bore her to the ship.  
In vain she cried for help, and prayed for grace ;  
In vain she prayed them to reveal her doom.  
Dumb to entreaty, off they swiftly sped,  
Two keeping guard beside her, and the rest  
Winging their flight in foam along the coast.

## VI.

The sun sank sullenly in banks of cloud,  
Flinging fierce embers on his purple couch.  
A burst of angry thunder shook the sea ;  
And though the air was still, long swelling waves  
Dashed like assaulting foemen on the rocks.  
When darkness fell, the pinnacle reached a strait  
That severed Sylleh's rocks from Lyonesse,  
And, guided by a beacon-light, approached

A massive tower that crowned the mainland cliff.  
Then Gwyneth knew her fate, for there abode  
Budic, a tyrant, who was wont to pay  
Vain homage to her beauty, and had sworn  
That ere the summer bloom had fled, his hand  
Would pluck the fairest flower in Lyonesse.

## VII.

High feast was held that night in Budic's tower.  
Crowning a day of tournament, and all  
The choicest ministers of mirth were there :  
Music to charm the ear and lead the dance,  
Beauty and song, buffoonery and wit,  
Games for the sportive, converse for the grave,  
And dainty fare in lavish store for all.  
Sleek lords and knights were there in harness bright,  
And haughty dames in gold and purple clad,  
Who shook their tresses when they heard men talk  
Of Budic's vice, but graced his board with smiles,  
And prated to their daughters of his wealth.

Laughter smote heavily on Gwyneth's ear,  
When, grasped by stalwart arms, she past the hall  
And up the dungeon stair in haste was borne.  
There, prisoned in a spacious room, she lay  
Prone on the floor, weeping in hopeless woe,  
And praying that the righteous sword of Heaven  
Might save her from the hateful tyrant's power.

## VIII.

Sweet music floated through the corridors ;  
But thunder rolled along the swelling sea,  
And harshly drowned the puny voice of mirth.  
Light from a thousand torches blazed around,  
Kindling the gems that sparkled on the guests,  
Flashing on massive cups of burnished gold,  
And flickering up the tower, until it touched  
With spectral fingers Gwyneth's streaming tears.  
But ever and anon in floods of fire  
Fierce lightnings blazed, turning to ghastliness  
The pomp and grandeur of the festal scene,  
And the sea bellowed with his deepest roar.

At midnight, when all sounds of joy had ceased,  
And Budic's foot was on the dungeon stair,  
The bolt of doom was launched. Tempest and fire,  
Thunder and earthquake stormed the tyrant's tower,  
Rending the massive walls, and crashing down  
An avalanche of ramparts to the sea.  
Blinded and stunned, the helpless Gwyneth fell  
Unscathed amongst the ruins, and when sight  
Returned, the fires of heaven shone out again,  
Revealing at the rock whereon she lay  
An empty boat. Lightly she loosed its chain,  
And leaping in, sped swiftly from the shore.

## IX.

Snatched like an aimless bubble by the tide,  
Gwyneth was swept along mid seething shoals,  
And jagged rocks that bristled through the surf.  
Behind her, wrapped in flame, the shattered tower  
Glared like a fiend against the ebon sky,  
And flung a lurid blaze across the strait.

Before her lay an inlet of the sea,  
Running between dark cliffs, and up its bed  
Her boat was hurried by the surging stream.  
Unceasing thunder rattled overhead,  
Rousing responsive tongues from cave and glen ;  
And lightnings quick and dazzling fired the night,  
As though the sons of God had come from heaven  
To light the pilgrim to some place of rest.  
On, like a cageling flying from its thrall,  
She sped, and cared not whither ; in her flight  
From shame rejoicing, but rejoicing more  
In conscious love and guardianship of God.

When morning broke, the tide, still swelling, flung  
Her boat upon the creek's remotest marge,  
Where groves of oak and yew-trees clustered round  
The base of Cara Clowse,\* that famous Mount,  
The gem and glory of the western land,  
Whose hoary top was hallowed by the Cross,

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\* The name of St. Michael's Mount, in the old Cornish tongue, was 'Cara Clowse en Cowse,' *i. e.* The Hoar Rock in the Wood. Though the flood-tide now surrounds it, there is a tradition that it originally stood in a forest, and was five or six miles distant from the sea.



And in remotest centuries had been  
The Druid's sacred trysting-place with Heaven.  
Thither ascended Gwyneth, filled with hope  
That some good hermit still might linger there  
To shield the friendless, though the reign of sin  
Had well-nigh banished good men from the land.  
And one came forth to meet her from a cell,  
Rooted amongst the ivy-covered rocks,  
Who listened to the story of her woe  
With troubled brow, and led her up the steep.

## X.

The sun was rising o'er Tregonning hill,  
Clothing with golden robes the palaces  
And towers of Lyonesse, when Gwyneth stood  
Beside the hermit on the topmost rock.  
But thunder still was mingling with the roar  
Of distant waves, and up the narrow creek  
The tide was widening o'er its ancient bounds.  
'O land of beauty!' cried the holy man,  
Gazing with tearful eyes on Lyonesse;

‘O Paradise of pomp and luxury !  
How are the mighty fallen ! In days of yore,  
Honour was brighter to thy sons than gold,  
And virtue dearer than soft dalliance.  
Thy knights, though coarse and rude, had higher aims  
Than selfish greed and silken vanities ;  
They guarded with strong hand and willing heart  
God’s landmarks upon earth of truth and right.  
But now, alas ! the watchword of the world  
Is wealth instead of worth ; and men are wont  
To bow the knee to all that bears the brand  
Of Mammon, and to worship nought beside ;  
Sapping their strength with lust, and wasting life  
In toil to hoard, and harder toil to spend !’  
So spake the hermit, and a frowning cloud  
Slid o’er the sun. An earthquake shook the hills,  
And all the distant shore grew white with foam.

## XI.

The portents of that morning shook men's hearts  
With terror, levelling to nothingness  
The world's vain schemes, and humbling to the dust  
Chieftain and serf in common impotence.  
But one there was to whom impending doom  
Brought twofold woe. A minstrel lone and lorn  
He seemed, for from his shoulders hung a harp ;  
And yet his presence would have graced a king.  
Yestreen at sundown he had blown the horn  
That hung at Gwyneth's postern, to announce  
News of Trevilyan, long in bondage held  
By Danish foes, but now from thrall escaped ;  
And finding all the household dreading sore  
That some mischance their lady had befallen,  
Had joined with them in quest of her all night.  
None better knew than he the paths she loved ;  
For he himself was Gwyneth's own true knight,  
Who in disguise had come to see what change

His years of banishment had wrought in her,  
And whether, as he dared to hope, her love  
Was constant as his own. Adown the combe  
He sped, and in the chapel paused to ask  
For her God's benison, where she that day  
Had prayed that angel-hosts might succour him ;  
Then to the beach, and up the gorse-clad hill,  
Where they had watched so oft the setting sun ;  
And thence across the heathery downs he strode,  
Halting between the stormy gusts, to rouse  
The echoes with her name ; whilst troubled serfs  
Explored the tangled woods and rocky shores,  
And kindled signal-fires on all the tors.

## XII.

As one who dreams of Paradise, but sees  
Before his waking eyes a mocking fiend,  
So shuddered with dismay Trevilyan's soul  
When morning broke upon the doomed land.  
Gwyneth so true, so dear, so nearly won,

After long years of hopeless severance,  
Was gone, for ever gone ; and Lyonesse,  
His native home, the Zion of his hopes,  
Shaken by earthquake, stormed by raging waves,  
Was shrinking from the angry face of heaven ;  
Whilst up the combes on every side the sea  
Was swiftly marching with exulting roar.

## XIII.

Louder than wind or wave there rose a shriek  
From all the land, and then a griding noise  
Of falling towers ; as though the quaking hills  
Had found a voice to deprecate their doom.  
Wolves from the forest depths rushed howling forth,  
Mingling with timid deer ; and screaming kites,  
In strange companionship with frightened choughs,  
Wheeled o'er the lofty tors ; whilst knights and serfs,  
Scullions and seneschals, on crag and peak  
Claimed equal fellowship in face of death.

Still plodding on, and breathing Gwyneth's name,  
Trevilyan reached a glen, where surging waves  
Were sweeping o'er the meads, and crashing down  
Great branches of the lichen-tufted trees ;  
When, lo ! a milk-white steed, caparisoned  
With costly trappings, galloped up the vale  
And stood before the knight, pawing the ground,  
And tossing from his mane the ocean spray.  
Hailing that courser as a Heaven-sent boon,  
Trevilyan vaulted on him, and across  
The flood that filled the valley quickly swam.  
Then up the slope and o'er the downs he dashed,  
Half-blinded by the foam which filled the sky,  
And fell like driven snow ; hoping to reach  
The hermit's hoary mount, which towered beyond  
The marge of Lyonesse. But soon, alas !  
The hungry sea closed round him, and the ridge  
Whereon he rode sank like a bank of sand  
Which children raise to dam the flowing tide.  
Yet onwards still he sped his fiery steed,  
Plunging through shoals, swimming abysmal depths,

Breasting wild waves, and weathering lone hill-tops  
That peered above the flood, until he won  
A haven on the slopes of Cara Clowse.\*

## XIV.

There, when that day of doom was closing, stood  
Trevilyan and his Gwyneth side by side,  
Blissful as souls victorious over death,  
When first they hail the light of Paradise ;  
And praising God, who by His outstretched arm,  
Sealing their hopes with sign and miracle,  
Had rolled away the clouds that dimmed their life.  
Before them in its grave the wicked land  
Lay buried evermore, and monsters foul  
Haunted its gilded halls and stately towers.  
Home, lands, and gold had perished, but true love

---

\* In memory of this traditional escape of Trevilyan from Lyonesse, his descendants bear on their coat-of-arms, at the present time, a horse argent issuing out of the sea.

Remained, and, like the widow's oil, became  
A dower of daily blessing, scattering  
Along their path of years more precious wealth  
Than all the gems that blazed in Lyonesse.

---



J O Y .

GOD wills not that this sorrow-stricken earth  
Should evermore a garb of mourning wear ;  
Bright flowers, sweet melodies, and harmless mirth,  
Are gifts from Him to lighten grief and care.

Christ too, our loving Master, led His band  
Of chosen converts to a marriage feast ;  
And there prolonged by His divine command  
The festive hours, and festive store increased.

Oft in His weariness He left the throng  
For converse with dear friends at Bethany ;  
And oft the merry prattle of the young  
Kindled His heart with tender sympathy.

In birds and wayside flowers He found delight ;  
    Their beauty gladdened Him where'er He trod ;  
The callow ravens on the rocky height,  
    And homely sparrows, spake to Him of God.

Tabor and Hermon were a joy to Him ;  
    He climbed their slopes to greet the morning sky ;  
And Zion's beauty through His tears grew dim,  
    When with prophetic gaze He saw it die.

Yearning for rest, He sought the desert plain,  
    Or woo'd the breezes of Capernaum's sea ;  
And in the midnight of His darkest pain  
    He loved the Olives of Gethsemane.

So may we joy in all things pure and bright,  
    Beauty and mirth, music and lovely flowers ;  
For He who leads us through the gloom of night,  
    Has left His footprints too on sunny hours.

## ONWARDS.

WIDENING, deepening, flowing ever,

Swells the tide of human life

Like a swift, majestic river ;

Joy and sorrow, peace and strife,

Fleck its bosom evermore,

As the wayward bubbles gleam

In the whirlpools of a stream.

Mountains stem its rugged way ;

Sluices tempt its waves to stray ;

Burning deserts drain its store.

But full and placid grows its swelling breast,

Reflecting heaven's own glory more and more,

And nearing, consciously, the peaceful shore

Of the great ocean, where it yearns to rest.

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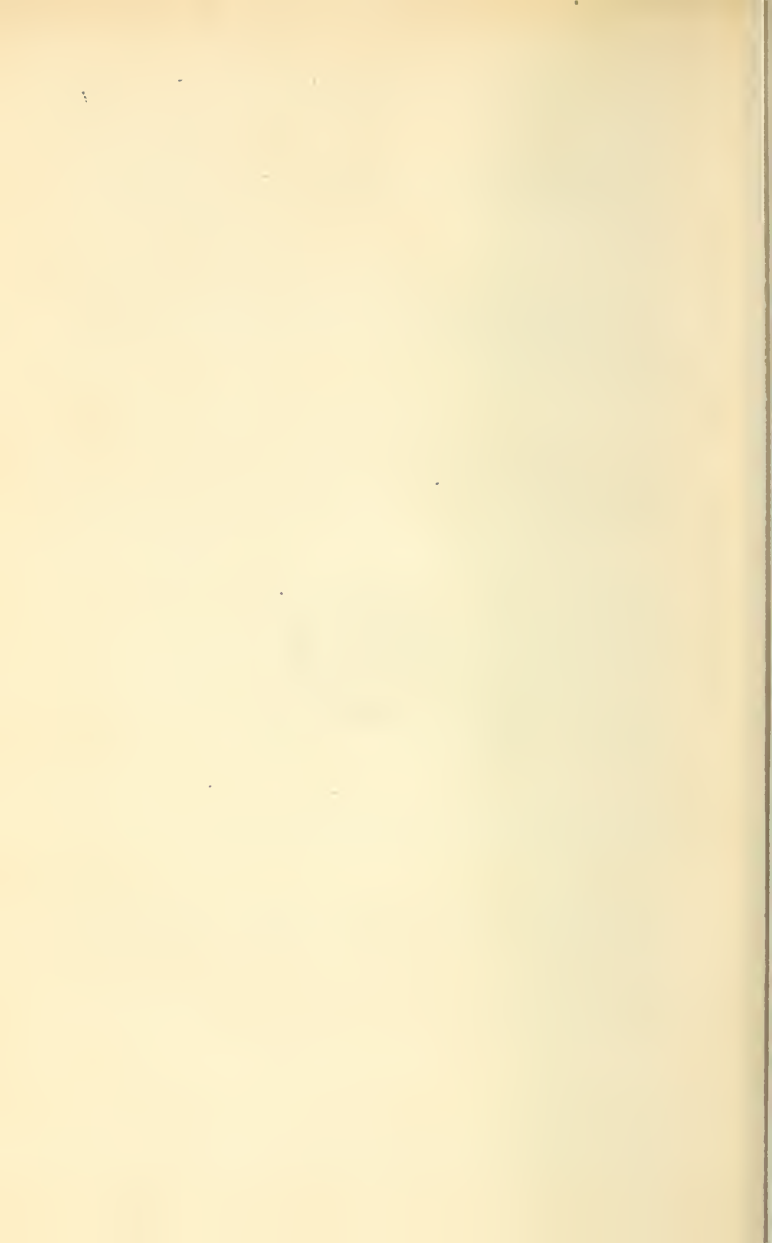
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